

Tilth Meeting Notes: January, 19, 2017

Present: Edward, Judy, Prescott, Michael, Angie, Dorcas, J.C. May

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Reports:

Finance:

Ed noted that nothing was too unusual in the report from Jeanne. He thought that the deficit, loss for the year, \$6,098, was a bit misleading. Not as bad as it looks on the surface. The annual letter donations and membership fees are a bit hard to separate. A significant amount came in this past month. \$2,505 dedicated plus \$2,600 additional from the letter. An internal audit occurred and all appeared in good order.

Market:

A market committee meeting took place last week and a number of recommendations came out of this meeting that will be presented at the vendor meeting planned for Saturday, February 25th at 3 p.m. in Grigware. The committee proposes the market begin April 30th and end October 1st this year. No one objected to those dates.

There is also a workday planned for Saturday, March 18th at 10 a.m. There was a suggestion to add some information about a community picnic to our poster. There were some market budget recommendations:

- WI Almanac – keep for \$75
- Islander – keep for \$60
- Green Guide – keep for \$100
- Market poster – keep the budgeted \$50
- Puget Sound Farm Fresh and Market Guide (with website and app– \$175)
- Whidbey's Farms and Market map and brochure – possibly keep for \$75, (if it happens.)
- Monthly market event fliers on Facebook, some money (\$15?) for boosting events
- Heart Ads (Prescott explained that this is a monthly newspaper notice for nonprofits to promote events) \$25 for 25 words. We agreed to do two a year. Perhaps opening day and the music festival or labor day event
- Donation to Drewslist – \$50

The committee wanted to reject funding for the Farm Guide formerly published as Puget Sound Fresh Farm Guide, but Prescott recommended that we keep our listing in order to have a regional marketing presence. This was agreed to by the council. All other proposed expenditures were approved by the council. However the Whidbey Farmers' Markets Association \$200 membership dues was rejected

Prescott prepared and sent a letter to the Organic farm School to encourage the teachers to direct their students as vendors in our market to learn how to market their produce, grow a market and work within the local community. No response at this time.

Prescott recommends that the market policies and rules and agreements be reviewed. Angie has a few recommendations for changes. The committee will need to review these documents online and then we can send recommendations around to each other with a deadline for finalizing changes by February 11.

Membership:

Annual meeting planning: Sunday, January 29 at 4 p.m. in Grigware Hall. Several council folks agreed to come by 3:15 to set up and clean up afterward. We need greeters, raffle item setup, hot beverage making, table and chair setup.

Prescott has posted information on Drew's List and she will send it to *The Weekly* and newspapers. Marc will be asked to post to members. Facebook post by Angie.

Judy gathered some raffle items from Casey's Crafts, Sebo's, etc. Linda Good is collecting items. Angie might also have something from work.

Only one person agreed to be on the nominating committee to fill two-year terms for positions 3, 5, 7 and 8. Currently Edward is position 3, Dorcas holds position 5, Michael is position 7 and 8 is vacant. Michael will be leaving the council. Pete is also not certain of his future. He may be leaving the council, so his position 6 may need to be filled for the last year. We will be approaching a number of members. Angie agreed to approach three people and Michael will contact another. Angie will stand for election. Edward will stay if no one comes forward.

Education:

No activity, but Judy is volunteering to people a Tilth booth on at the February 4th Sound Waters at lunch. J.C. May will set up and take down. We will compensate J.C. for participating in the conference. Prescott will see that the material is ready before she leaves for the Farmers' Market conference Thursday, February 2.

Land Steward:

Jack Adams, a new volunteer, has offered to help with fence building on or about March 1st along with Michael, maybe Fred and Austin? The plan is to extend the fence another 15 feet east in the annex garden in need of new fencing. The account at Skagit Farmers' Country Store in Freeland has been updated and the current signers are Pete, Michael and Prescott.

Contracts for the community gardeners needs to be reviewed and sent to existing gardeners before new plots are available. One plot should be reserved for this year's intern. Angie suggests Albert's. The committee should meet to make a proposal for how to distribute Albert's plot and report at the next meeting. Angie and Prescott will meet to coordinate outreach to the gardeners. . Angie recommends a \$5 increase in community garden fees to \$35 for members and \$55 for nonmembers. All agreed.

Lesedi Farm's lease agreement may be renewed on a year-to-year basis by December 2017. Dorcas intends to ask for a year-to-year lease. She will contact Prescott and Edward to prepare the lease.

Prescott, via Linda Good, was contacted by a man moving to the island this summer, wondering if the Tilth ever leased out larger plots of land like an incubator farm, 100'x100'. She explained our agreements with Lesedi and the Native Plant Stewards, and he looks forward to a visit and to see the agreements. He completed the Sustainable Agriculture Education program through Edmonds Community College and worked with Perry Ells at the extension farm in Woodinville where we grew for, and ran a weekly farmers market on the EDCC campus as well as did orders through the Puget Sound Food Hub during the 2016 season. Since he won't be growing anything until 2018. Prescott suggested we extend the fencing to the eastern edge from the garden annex where we are already adding 15 feet. In discussion it was noted the field becomes really rocky toward Thompson Road, perhaps extending the fence another 100 feet is premature. The interested farmer may not find it suitable. Dorcas suggested an orchard be planted in the area. No action taken at this time.

Intern:

Prescott reported our certificate to hire an intern through the Washington State Farm Intern Pilot Program has been approved. She asked for feedback on the intern job description. Angie noted a misrepresentation under compensation, the third bulleted item. It was changed to "use of some farming tools and materials."

Thanks to a funding letter by Pete and Mokihana which raised \$430 and \$2,000 from Nancy Nordhoff we've accrued \$2,440 toward the \$3,365 to \$3,700 needed for a 2017 intern. She asked how the hiring should proceed. Pete has been communicating with one of the finalists from last year. Prescott will check with Pete about that candidate's expectations and invite that candidate to apply with the understanding that we will be advertising the position. The application deadline is February 17. Volunteers to help with interviews are, tentatively, Dorcas, Prescott, Angie and Pete. J.C. will step in for Pete if he is unavailable.

Next meeting tentatively, 6:30 pm on Thursday, February 16 at Lutheran annex, no potluck.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:25 p.m.

Michael Seraphinoff took notes, Prescott edited.